ISSN 0523 - 7904

BOCAGIANA

Museu de História Natural do Funchal

Madeira 31.XII.2012 No. 235

FIRST DATA ON BREEDING OF MANDARIN DUCK *AIX GALERICULATA* IN THE MADEIRAN ARCHIPELAGO

By Domingo Trujillo [1]

With 2 figures

RESUMO. A reprodução do pato-mandarim *Aix galericulata* em Porto Santo (Arquipélago da Madeira) é confirmada pela primeira vez. Esta espécie parece estar bem estabelecida na ilha, por enquanto, o único local da Macaronésia.

Palavras chave: *Aix galericulata*, Anatidae, ilha de Porto Santo, Arquipélago da Madeira, primeiro registro.

ABSTRACT. Reproduction of Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* on Porto Santo (Madeiran Archipelago) is confirmed for the first time. This species seems fully established in the island, that is – for the moment – the only site of Macaronesia in which this duck is breeding in the wild.

Keywords: *Aix galericulata*, Anatidae, Porto Santo Island, Madeira Islands, first breeding record.

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The Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* is an East Asian species, which natural distribution comprises Northeast China, East Rusia and Japan (Cramp & Simmons, 1977; Madge & Burn, 1988; Beaman & Madge, 1998; Ogilvie & Young, 2002). There are feral stable populations of this duck also in Great Britain, Switzerland, Belgium and Germany (Cramp & Simmons, 1977; Madge & Burn, 1988; Beaman & Madge, 1998).

In the Madeiran archipelago there are several recorded observations of *A. galericulata* in the wild, probably from escaped individuals. In the website: madeira.seawatching.net/reports.html there are the following records: on 8 August 2005, a female or male in eclipse plumage at Tanque dam (Porto Santo Island) (S. Cherrug); on 28 August 2006, three females in a pond of a golf course of the same island (O. Jönsson & J. Segergren); and on 8 April 2010, a male in the Funchal port (Madeira Island) (A. Seppä). In spite of this information, the Mandarin Duck is not included in the most recent checklist of birds from Madeiran and Selvagens archipelagos (Romano *et al*., 2010).

Besides, it is interesting to comment that the presence of domesticated Mandarin Ducks is documented on Madeira Island since at least March 1996, when several individuals of this duck and also of Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*, the later from North America (Madge & Burn, 1988; Ogilvie & Young, 2002), were introduced in the island.

During the morning of 24 June 2010, I observed a female Mandarin Duck with five or six well-developed chicks at Tanque dam, Porto Santo. All the birds were very shy and escaped away quickly to the vegetation of the border of the dam, formed mainly by tamarisks *Tamarix gallica*; the female made a short flight and disappeared before the chicks. In the late afternoon of the same day I could see again probably the same female I saw in the morning, this time together with seven chicks (Fig. 1). In this occasion the eight birds flew again towards the vegetated area of the dam, where they hide. On 25 June there was again an adult – female or male in eclipse plumage – in the border of the dam; this bird went directly to the vegetation of the borders again (Fig. 2). The ducks showed a shy behaviour always, and both chicks and adults searched noisily for refuge in the trees (*T. gallica*) in all the observations.

This duck breeds at Tanque dam together with other aquatic birds, namely Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*, of which we counted at least three pairs with chicks of different ages, and Common Coot *Fulica atra*, with two breeding pairs, with one and two chicks respectively.

Tanque dam was visited in five occasions, and in three of them the Mandarin Duck was seen, whereas it was not recorded in any of the other additional little dams visited in the island – one close to Camacha and three in the vicinities of Serra de Fora.

More recently, on 31 March 2012, there were four pairs of Mandarin Duck at Serra de Dentro pond, and the previous year a breeding pair of this species was present again at Tanque dam, a clear indication that this population is growing (madeirabirds.com/madeira_march_2012_bird_observations).

These findings imply the first breeding record of *Aix galericulata* in the wild not only for the Madeiran archipelago, but also for the entire Macaronesian region (*cf.* HAZEVOET, 1995; MARTÍN & LORENZO, 2001; CLARKE, 2006; LORENZO, 2007; ROMANO *et al*., 2010; GARCÍA-DEL-REY, 2011).

Fig. 1 - Adult female and chicks of Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* observed on 24 June 2010 at Tanque dam, Porto Santo island (Domingo Trujillo).

Fig. 2 - Female or male Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* in eclipse plumage, seen on 25 June 2010 in the same site (Domingo Trujillo).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My most sincere thanks to Rubén Barone, who corrected the manuscript and also made the translation to English, and to Javier Juste and Beneharo Rodríguez, that revised the English.

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Date received: 02-08-2012; date revised: 06-08-2012; date accepted: 31-10-2012.

B O C A G I A N A

Museu Municipal do Funchal

Madeira 22.II.1963 No. 9

NOTES ON TWO MADEIRA PLANTS

By N. C. H. Krauss [1]

The composite plant «Abundância» (*Eupatorium adenophorum* Spreng.) has been known in Madeira for many years. On July 24, 1962 I collected a second species of *Eupatorium*, *E. riparium* Schultz-Bip., confirmed by the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, England. This was growing in association with *E. adenophorum* in a damp area along a path near Monte. Both these species of *Eupatorium* are native to Mexico. I have seen *E. riparium* growing along a small stream in a ravine at the Desierto de los Leones, Distrito Federal, in the hills above Mexico City. Both species are pests in grazing land in Hawaii.

On November 7, 1960 I collected specimens of *Ulex minor* Roth (determined by Royal Botanic Garden, Kew) in the grassy hills above Ribeiro Frio. Since then I have seen it also at Encumeada and Santo da Serra. *Ulex europaeus* L. has been known in Madeira for a long time, but I have not seen any records of *U. minor*.

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